

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05445 221132Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 5696

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5445

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMER PINT US TW

SUBJECT: GROC LST'S PARTICIPATING IN VN

REF: TAIPEI 2122

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMB HSU SHAO-CH'ANG AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF SINCE CRITICAL MILITARY SITUATION DEVELOPED IN SVN LAST MARCH. INDEED, THE CINCPACREP HERE IN SAIGON, RADM BENTON, HAS DAILY CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINESE MILITARY ATTACHE (COL. CHU) ON THE SITUATION. IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE KEPT AMB HSU FULLY ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS AS WE KNEW THEM, AND HE HAS GRACIOUSLY EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION.

2. THE FOUR GROC LST'S ARE OPERATING OFF THE VNMAOAST AS A UNIT IN THE AMERICAN NAVAL CONTINGENT NOW IN THESE WATERS. WE UNDERSTAND THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS THE FULL CONSENT OF THE GROC. GROC LST'S NOW ENGAGED IN MOVING RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR REFUGEES AND WAR VICTIMS.

3. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND ROC'S PRIORITY OBLIGATION TO USE THESE SHIPS IF NEEDED TO ASSIST IN EVACUATION OF CHINESE AND HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH AMB HSU. WE ARE AT PRESENT ASSISTING AMB HSU ON HIS EVACUATION PROBLEM BY OTHER MEANS AND WE THINK IT IS NOW WELL UNDER CONTROL.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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